

NORTHMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

300 Sunset Blvd., Peterborough ON K9H 5L3

Tel. 705-748-4881

www.northminsteruc.ca Email: info@northminsteruc.ca

Minister: Rev. Kevin Derry

Email: minister@northminsteruc.ca

Music Director: Dustin Bowers

Sunday, June 19, 2022

2nd Sunday after Pentecost & Communion

Music as We Gather

Opening Hymn: VU240 "Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven"

- 1 Praise, my soul, the God of heaven,
glad of heart your carols raise;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who, like me, should sing God's praise.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Praise the Maker all your days!
- 2 Praise God for the grace and favour
shown our forebears in distress;
God is still the same forever,
slow to chide and swift to bless.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Sing our Maker's faithfulness!
- 3 Like a loving parent caring,
God knows well our feeble frame;
gladly all our burdens bearing,
still to countless years the same.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
All within me, praise God's name!
- 4 Frail as summer's flower we flourish;
blows the wind and it is gone;
but, while mortals rise and perish,
God endures unchanging on.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Praise the high eternal one.

5 Angels, teach us adoration,
you behold God face to face;
sun and moon and all creation,
dwellers all in time and space.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Praise with us the God of grace!

Acknowledgement of the Land:

As we gather, we acknowledge that we meet and live on the traditional territories of the Mississauga Anishinaabe People. We give thanks for their care for the land over thousands of years and for their deep spirituality and honouring of the Creator and the creation. May we live with respect in God's creation and in harmony with our neighbours.

Lighting the Christ Candle

Welcome, Celebrations, Life, and Work of the Community

Call to Worship:

One: Called to live in the Spirit of Pentecost!

All: Called to worship the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer!

One: Called to hear the Holy in the powerful silence.

All: Called to experience the many manifestations of the Holy.

One: Let us worship.

All: Let us worship the Holy.

Opening Prayer

Words of Assurance:

One: Through the Spirit of Pentecost, we hear the call to faith.

All: A faith that reminds us we are loved and cherished.

One: In the name of Jesus...

All: Amen.

First Lesson: 1 Kings 19:1-15a

(Carrie Varga)

^{19:1} Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. ² Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me and more also, if I do not make your life like the life of one of them by this time tomorrow." ³ Then he was afraid; he got up and fled for his life and

came to Beer-sheba, which belongs to Judah; he left his servant there.

⁴ But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die, "It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors." ⁵ Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, "Get up and eat." ⁶ He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. He ate and drank and lay down again. ⁷ The angel of the LORD came a second time, touched him, and said, "Get up and eat, or the journey will be too much for you." ⁸ He got up and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God. ⁹ At that place he came to a cave and spent the night there.

Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁰ He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."

¹¹ He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind, and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake, ¹² and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire, and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. ¹³ When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁴ He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." ¹⁵ Then the LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus."

Psalm Selection: VU768 – from Psalm 42 & 43

(Led by the Carrie Varga)

Refrain:



Why rest-less, why cast down my soul? Hope still and you will sing!

One Like a deer that longs for life-giving waters,
so longs my soul for you, O God.

**All My soul thirsts for you, the source of my life.
When shall I come and behold your face?**

One Day and night I taste only tears,
while they steadily belittle me, saying, 'Where is your God?'

**All But I remember - though my soul is distressed -
how I went with the crowds to the house of God,**

One our voices joyful and filled with praise,
a multitude keeping festival. **R**

One My soul is overwhelmed within me;
therefore I remember you in this land of Jordan,
in Hermon, and on Mount Mizar.

**All Like the turbulent roar of your waterfalls,
all your waves and currents wash over me.**

One With loving kindness you bless my days,
and by night your song is with me,
a prayer to you, Giver of life.

**All I say to God, my rock, 'Why have you forgotten me?
Why must I go like a mourner
because my foes oppress me?'**

One I am like one whose bones are broken to pieces
through the taunting of my enemies.

**All They steadily belittle me, saying,
'Where is your God?' **R****

One Vindicate me, O God,
and plead my cause against faithless ones.
Save me from those who are deceitful and unjust.

**All You are the God in whom I take refuge.
Why have you rejected me?
Why must I go like a mourner
because my foes oppress me?**

One O send your light and your truth to lead me,
let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling!

**All Then I will go to the altar of God,
to God my exceeding joy.**

I will praise you with the harp, O God, my God. R

Young at Heart Time:

“Jasmine’s Background Noise”

Hymn: VU330

“Jesus Shall Reign”

- 1 Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does its successive journeys run;
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
till moons shall wax and wane no more.
- 2 People and realms of every tongue
dwell on his love with sweetest song,
and infant voices shall proclaim
their early blessings on his name.
- 3 Blessings abound where'er he reigns;
and prisoners leap to lose their chains;
the weary find eternal rest,
and all who suffer want are blest.
- 4 Let every creature rise and bring
peculiar honours to our King,
angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the loud Amen!

Gospel Lesson: Luke 8:26-39

(Carrie Varga)

8:26 Then they arrived at the region of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. ²⁷ As he stepped out on shore, a man from the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had not worn any clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. ²⁸ When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him, shouting, “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me,” ²⁹ for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) ³⁰ Jesus then asked him, “What is your name?” He said,

“Legion,” for many demons had entered him. ³¹ They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

³² Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding, and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. ³³ Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd stampeded down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

³⁴ When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. ³⁵ Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they became frightened. ³⁶ Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. ³⁷ Then the whole throng of people of the surrounding region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. ³⁸ The man from whom the demons had gone out begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, ³⁹ “Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.” So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

Reader: As we listen to the words from our scripture...

All: ...may we hear the stories from our faith history that inspire us to embrace the promise and new life shared with us in the upper room at Pentecost.

Reader: In the name of Jesus...

All: ...Amen.

Meditation:

“Not Even Crickets”

Music for Meditation

The New Creed:

One: Let’s share together in the New Creed:

**All: We are not alone,
we live in God's world.
We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,**

**who works in us and others by the Spirit.
We trust in God.
We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Invitation to Offer Our Gifts

Dedication of Our Gifts

An Environmental Minute:

“Shopping Locally”
(Presented by Carrie Varga)

When we shop locally, we are supporting local growers and bakers as well as reducing our carbon footprint. Since local growers and bakers don't need to transport long distances, the use of fossil fuels is less. It also allows for fresher produce and goods when we try to live farm to table. When we shop local produce and food stuffs, it also reduces the risk of transportation bourn pests travelling from region to region, country to country or continent to continent.

Locally grown and produced not only supports the community but the environment.

Hymn Before Communion: VU806 “O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

- 1 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:

- 2 under the shadow of thy throne
thy saints have dwelt secure,
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defence is sure.

- 3 Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received its frame,
from everlasting thou art God,
to endless years the same.
- 4 A thousand ages in thy sight
are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.
- 5 Time like an ever-rolling stream
soon bears us all away;
we fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.
- 6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while troubles last,
and our eternal home.

**The Celebration of Communion and Paraphrase of the
Jesus Prayer:**

One: Let us share together in a paraphrase of the Jesus Prayer...

**All: Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be.
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echo
through the universe!**

**The way of your justice be followed
by peoples of the world!**

**Your heavenly will be done
by all created beings!**

**Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.**

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

**For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Closing Hymn: VU120

“O Jesus, I Have Promised”

- 1 O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
remain for ever near me, my Saviour and my friend:
I shall not fear the journey if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.
- 2 O let me feel you near me: the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear;
my foes are ever near me, around me and within;
but, Jesus, then draw nearer and shield my soul from sin.
- 3 O let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;
now speak, and make me listen, O guardian of my soul.
- 4 O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you,
that where you are in glory your servant shall be too.
And Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
O give me grace to follow, my Saviour and my friend.

Blessing as We Go Forth:

One: As our time together comes to an end...

**All: ...the Spirit of the Creator stirs us to live faithfully
and love openly as we follow the call of the Spirit of
Pentecost.**

One: As we journey together with each other and our Creator
during this season after Pentecost, may our reflections
and discussions transform our actions and attitudes as
we live and love together in faith.

All: In the name of Jesus, the Christ, Amen and Amen!

Music as We Depart

Regional Council Prayer Cycle

As church, we are called to pray for each other and for our mission in the world.

For the week of June 19, 2022

St. Stephen's Pastoral Charge
St. Stephen's United Church

[*East Central Ontario Regional Council*]

THANK YOU TO THIS WEEK'S VOLUNTEERS-June 19

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|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Duty | <i>Elgin Northey</i> |
| Elevator | <i>John Tewsley</i> |
| Ushers/Greeters | <i>Mary Hess Northey, Pat Murduff</i> |
| Scripture Reader | <i>Carrie Varga</i> |
| Congregational Elder | <i>Mary Hess Northey</i> |
| Sound | <i>Bill VanTol / Alex Brunton</i> |
| Video | <i>Ron Kervin/Nelson Pickett</i> |
| Videographer | <i>Synthia MacEachern</i> |
| Coffee Fellowship | <i>Christian Development</i> |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFICIAL BOARD MEETING will be held on Tuesday, June 21, 2022 at 7 pm. in Lower Wright Hall

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held on Sunday, July 17, 2022 following the worship service.

FOOD BANK SUNDAY- is held on the 2nd Sunday of each month. We invite you to bring items to support Kawartha Food Share. Boxes are located in Upper Wright Hall and the Narthex. Thank you for your generous support! Next date: July 10th.

REQUEST FOR COFFE DONATIONS...now that we are back to in-person fellowship time following our Sunday Worship services, we are in need for coffee. If you are able to donate coffee, we would greatly appreciate it!